Serial No.: 10/643,748 Confirmation No.: 4133 Filed: 19 August 2003

For: DENTAL ARTICLE FORMS AND METHODS

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the aboveidentified application:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising: selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, and comprising wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition in the form of a self-supporting structure having a first shape and sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the organic composition gives the self-supporting structure its self-supporting and malleable characteristics, and further wherein the organic composition is dimensionally stable and comprises a surfactant system mixed therein;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;
placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials
on a subject's tooth structure;

at least partially hardening the hardenable material to form the dental article; optionally customizing the dental article outside of the subject's mouth; cementing the dental article to the subject's tooth structure; and removing the dental article form from the article;

wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth before or after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

40-41. (Cancelled)

42. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 39 wherein the organic composition is curable.

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- 43. **(Original)** The method of claim 42 wherein the curable organic composition comprises an initiator system and a resin system comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated component.
- 44. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 39 wherein the organic composition is noncurable.
- 45. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:

 selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first

 shape that includes a reservoir, and comprising wherein the self-supporting structure is

 formed from an organic composition in the form of a self-supporting structure having a

 first shape and sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the

 organic composition gives the self-supporting structure its self-supporting and malleable
 characteristics;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;
placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials
on a subject's tooth structure;

at least partially hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article;

optionally customizing the dental article outside of the subject's mouth; cementing the dental article to the subject's tooth structure; and removing the dental article form from the dental article; wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth before or after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form is removed after the dental article is cemented to the subject's tooth structure.

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47. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form comprises an organic composition comprising a surfactant system mixed therein.

- 48. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the organic composition comprises a filler system.
- 49. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the organic composition is free of added filler.
- 50. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 45 wherein the organic composition is curable or noncurable.
- 51. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 50 wherein the organic composition is curable.
- 52. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 51 wherein the curable organic composition comprises an initiator system and a resin system comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated component.
- 53. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 50 wherein the organic composition is noncurable.
- 54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the noncurable organic composition comprises a noncurable polymer selected from the group consisting of a polycaprolactone, a polyvinylacetate, and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a polyethylene glycol, a wax, and mixtures thereof.

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- 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form is a form for a dental article selected from the group consisting of a crown, an inlay, an onlay, a bridge, an orthodontic appliance, a maxillofacial prosthesis, and a tooth splint.
- 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form is in packaging.
- 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the dental article form comprises one or more of the following features: a handle attached to the dental article form at a location removed from the base of the dental article form; a vented handle through which excess amounts of hardenable dental material can pass during placement of the dental article form; and one or more lines of weakness that may be separated.
- 58. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:

 selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first

 shape that includes a reservoir, and comprising wherein the self-supporting structure is

 formed from an organic composition in the form of a self-supporting structure having a

 first shape and sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the

 organic composition gives the self-supporting structure its self-supporting and malleable
 characteristics;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;

placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;

hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article and cement it to the subject's tooth structure; and

removing the dental article form from the dental article; wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth before or after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

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59. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 58 wherein the dental article form comprises an organic composition comprising a surfactant system mixed therein.

- 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58 wherein the organic composition is curable or noncurable.
- 61. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 60 wherein the organic composition is curable.
- 62. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 61 wherein the curable organic composition comprises an initiator system and a resin system comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated component.
- 63. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 wherein the organic composition is noncurable.
- 64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63 wherein the noncurable organic composition comprises a noncurable polymer selected from the group consisting of a polycaprolactone, a polyvinylacetate, and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a polyethylene glycol, a wax, and mixtures thereof.
- 65. (New) A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:

selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the dental article form does not include slots;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;

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placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;

at least partially hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article;

optionally customizing the dental article outside of the subject's mouth; cementing the dental article to the subject's tooth structure; and removing the dental article form from the dental article; wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth before or after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.

66. (New) A method of preparing a dental article, the method comprising:

selecting a dental article form having a self-supporting structure comprising a first shape that includes a reservoir, wherein the self-supporting structure is formed from an organic composition having sufficient malleability to be formed into a second shape, wherein the dental article form does not include slots;

filling the reservoir with one or more hardenable dental materials;

placing the dental article form filled with one or more hardenable dental materials on a subject's tooth structure;

hardening the hardenable material in the reservoir to form the dental article and cement it to the subject's tooth structure; and

removing the dental article form from the dental article; wherein the dental article form is reshaped while in the subject's mouth before or after filling the reservoir with the hardenable dental material.